

**IN THE UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE**

Applicant: Welty  
Serial No.: 10/007,021  
Filed: 11/05/2001  
Group Art Unit: 1775  
Examiner: Piziali, Andrew T.  
Title: COATED ARTICLE

RECEIVED  
JAN 20 2004  
TC 1700

**RESPONSE**

Mailstop RCE  
Commissioner of Patents  
P.O. Box 1450  
Alexandria, VA 22313

Sir:

This paper is responsive to the Office Action mailed on September 10, 2003. Claims 22-54 remain in this application. Claims 22, 24-29, 31, 32, 34-40 has been amended and new claims 42-54 have been added. Please amend the application as follows.

**AMENDMENT****IN THE CLAIMS:**

22. (CURRENTLY AMENDED) ~~A faucet~~An article having a coating on at least a portion of a surface of said faucet, said faucet comprising a coating consisting essentially of, in order:

~~a nickel layer; a faucet substrate; and~~

~~a coating including a strike layer on said faucet substrate consisting essentially of zirconium, titanium or zirconium-titanium alloy on said surface, directly contacting said nickel layer; and~~

~~an outer[[a]] layer on said strike layer consisting essentially of zirconium compound, titanium compound, or zirconium-titanium alloy compound on directly contacting said strike layer, and said outer layer is uncoated.~~

**CERTIFICATE OF MAIL**

I hereby certify that the enclosed Response is being deposited with the United States Postal Service as First Class Mail, postage prepaid, in an envelope addressed to Commissioner for Patents, P.O. Box 1450, Alexandria, VA 22313-1450 on January 12, 2004.

  
Amy M. Spaulding